

**Testimony of Representative John Katko
Rebar from Japan, Taiwan, and Turkey
ITC Hearing
May 18, 2017**

Thank you Chairman Schmidlein and Members of the Commission. I appreciate the opportunity to testify before you today on behalf of U.S. rebar producers. I understand that the Commission is nearing a final determination of whether these unfairly traded rebar imports from Japan, Taiwan, and Turkey are causing harm to the domestic steel industry. I think it is abundantly clear that these unfairly traded imports have had a devastating impact on our country's rebar producers and their hardworking employees and I ask that the Commission give full consideration to the facts presented today.

I have the privilege of representing New York's 24th District, which includes Nucor Steel's rebar plant in Auburn. This mill has been making steel in my district since 1974 and plays a vital role in the community. Nucor Steel creates thousands of jobs nationwide and has made hiring veterans a priority, with 20 percent of their workforce having served in the military. The Auburn plant uses environmentally-friendly production methods; rebar produced at the plant contains 99.8 percent recycled content. I can confidently say that U.S. steel manufacturers, such as Nucor, produce some of the best rebar on the market and, given a fair opportunity, our producers can compete with any steel producers in the world.

However, when foreign competitors receive government subsidies and dump their products into U.S. markets, American producers suffer.

Unfairly traded rebar from Japan, Taiwan, and Turkey has surged into U.S. markets, increasing by 160 percent over the past three years and as a result, U.S. rebar companies have suffered. Domestic producers have been forced to scale back investment, slash production, cut pay, and lay off workers. The entire U.S. rebar industry has experienced a sharp decline in revenue, profitability, and production. Without relief, these conditions will continue and worsen.

I have visited Nucor's Auburn facility to see first-hand the unparalleled level of productivity, quality, and efficiency that characterizes our domestic rebar industry. It has been an honor to get to know the more than 300 hardworking men and women who produce rebar at this plant. These workers are depending on the commission to consider the impact that unfair trade is having on their families, and their communities. . Since each local steel job supports an additional seven jobs in America, Nucor's economic impact ripples far beyond the mill's property line. We cannot sit idly by and watch while foreign producers threaten much-needed jobs by taking unfair advantage of U.S. trade practices. We must do all that we can to hold these producers accountable and impose trade remedies when foreign producers don't play by the rules.

In closing, rebar imports from Japan, Taiwan and Turkey steal market share from U.S. producers, reduces hundreds of high-paying jobs, and puts the livelihoods of my constituents at risk. I am hopeful that you will recognize the importance of the domestic rebar industry. I urge you to support our American manufacturing workers who serve as the backbone of our economy.

Thank you.